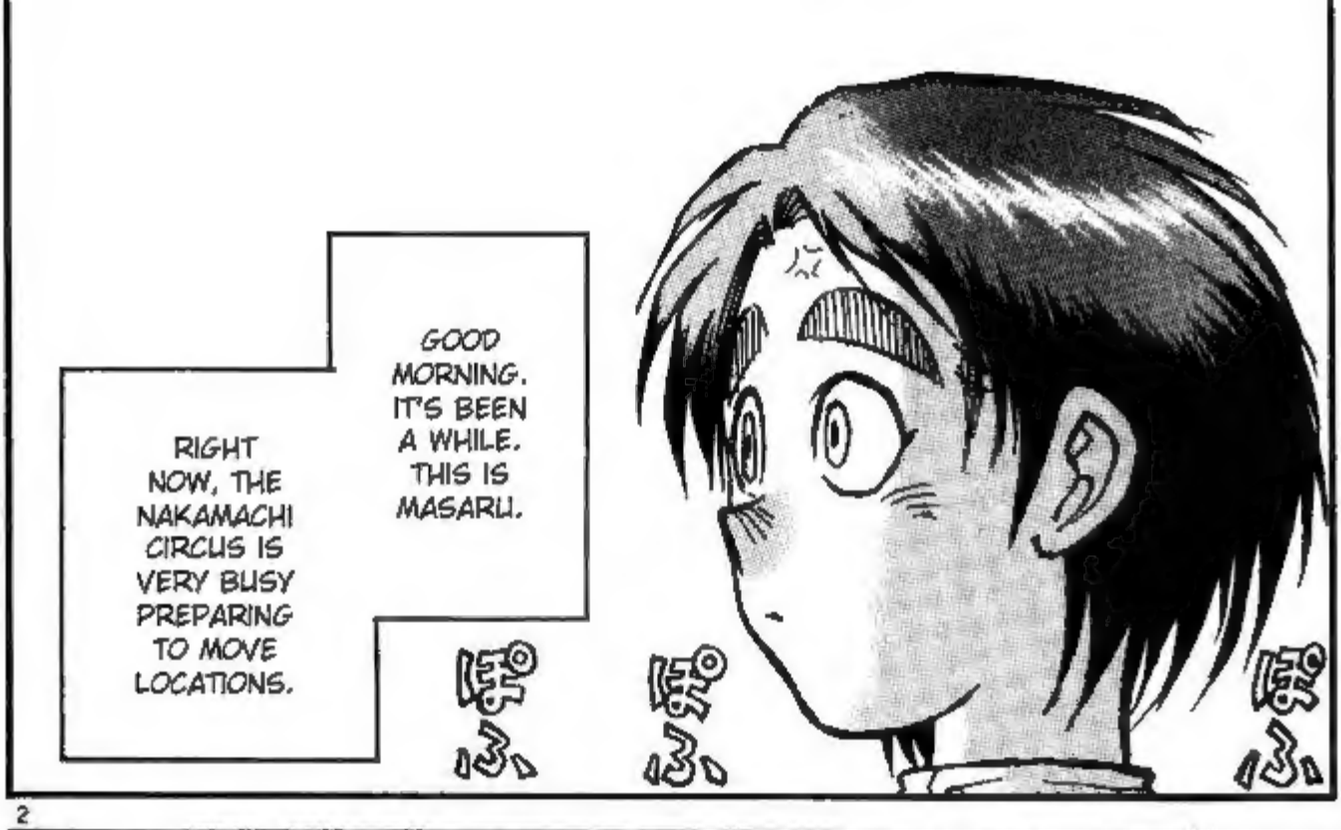
Intermission II ～

Guy in the Nakamachi Circus



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I KNOW, I KNOW.
GOT IT.
NAOTA!
OKAY, PUT THE STAGE SKIRTING FOR THE PUPPET SHOW THERE.
WE CAN STILL FIT SOMETHING IN OVER HERE.
HEEEY, OLD MAN, WE'RE DONE LOADING UP THE TRUCK.
COME ON, NOW, VIRMA, DON'T HANDLE THE DOLLIES ROUGHLY.
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STAGE SKIRTING: A CURTAIN THAT COVERS THE LEGS OF A HIGH STAGE

HA HA ...
...? IS HE FEELIN' OKAY?
MOR-NING, MASA-RUUU!
stomp stomp
IN OTHER WORDS, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BE HERE ANYMORE.
TWO DAYS AGO THERE WAS A PLANE CRASH. WE WEREN'T ABLE TO PUT ON OUR SHOW, AND THE AUTUMN FESTIVAL WAS CALLED OFF ENTIRELY.
AH!
pat pat
...HE HATES ME...
stomp stomp
GOOD MORNING, MASARU-SAN!
THAT'S NOT TRUE! GOOD MORNING, LIESE-SAN!
WH-WHAT COULD HAVE HAP-PENED?
HE SEEMS TO BE IN A BAD MOOD SOMEHOW.
IS SOMETHING UP WITH MASARU?
THAT BOY'S ACTING STRANGE.
SORRY, NORI-SAN. SORRY, HIRO-SAN. GOOD! MORNING!

THAT'S RIGHT...! I STARTED TO THINK ABOUT NOTHING BUT GIRLS...!
SAY, HIRO, YOU REMEMBER BEING AT THAT AGE TOO, DON'TCHA?

HM ...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
LIESE, THERE'S SO MUCH YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND... MEN HAVE A LOT TO DEAL WITH...

QUIT IT WITH THE ADVICE, PLEASE.
HA HA. IF IT'S THAT KIND OF TIME FOR HIM, LIESE-CHAN, AT NIGHT, YOU SHOULD ...

RIGHT, RIGHT... PANTIES AND SUCH ...!
YEAH, YEAH! ME TOO! IT'S THE BUDDING OF YOUR YOUTH, RIGHT?
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THAT'S NOT WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ME!

BUT, GRANDPA, I REALLY DO NEED ALL OF THESE!
RYOUKO! YOU'RE NOT GOING ON SOME FUN VACATION, YOU KNOW!

BUT, Y'KNOW, MASARU DOESN'T USUALLY GET INTO THESE BAD MOODS...

HUH ?
YOU'RE ALL A BIT SLOW...

BEFORE WE LEFT, I PROMISED YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER TO SEND YOU STRAIGHT HOME...
IF YOU DIDN'T KEEP STUDYING AND ATTENDING SCHOOL!
I KNO-O-OW ...!
OH.
I FORGOT TO MENTION. SOME NEW MEMBERS HAVE JOINED THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS.

HMPH! I TOLD YOU, I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE I'M WORRIED ABOUT GRANDPA!
I HATE THE CIRCUS!
YEAH, YEAH ...

THE PROPERTY MAN, UBUKATA HOUAN-SAN, ALSO CALLED "THE OLD YELLER" ...
AND HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER RYOUKO-SAN.

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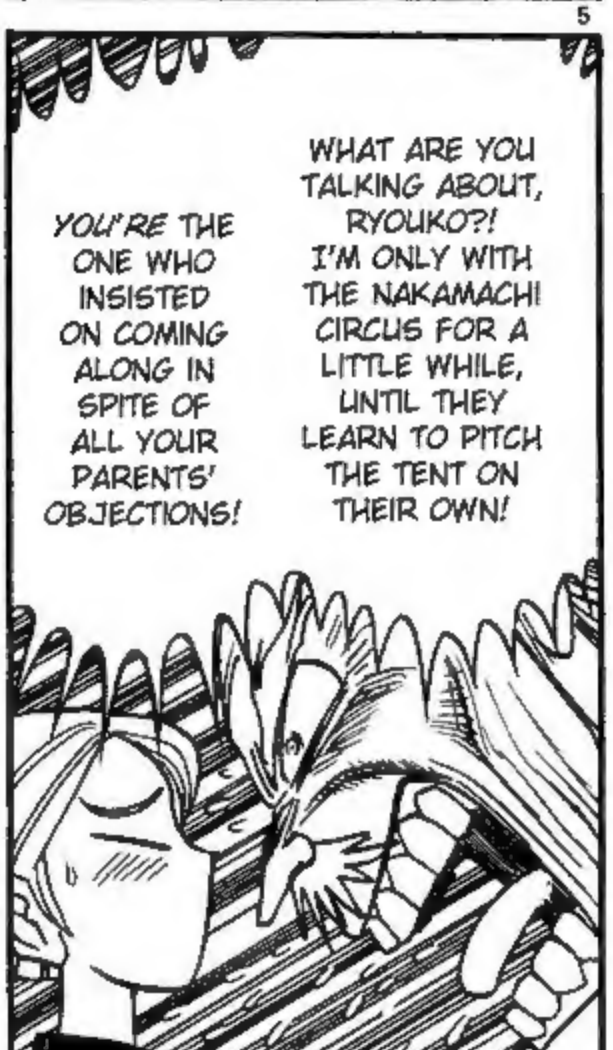
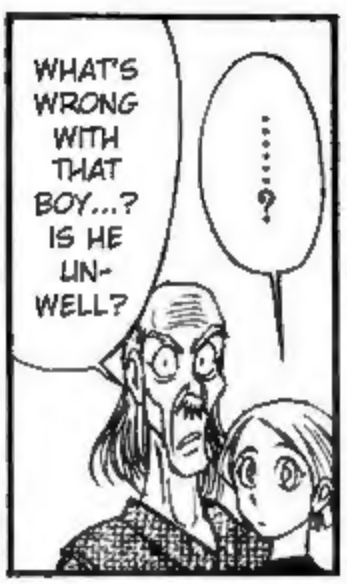

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, RYOUKO?! I'M ONLY WITH THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS FOR A LITTLE WHILE, UNTIL THEY LEARN TO PITCH THE TENT ON THEIR OWN!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INSISTED ON COMING ALONG IN SPITE OF ALL YOUR PARENTS' OBJECTIONS!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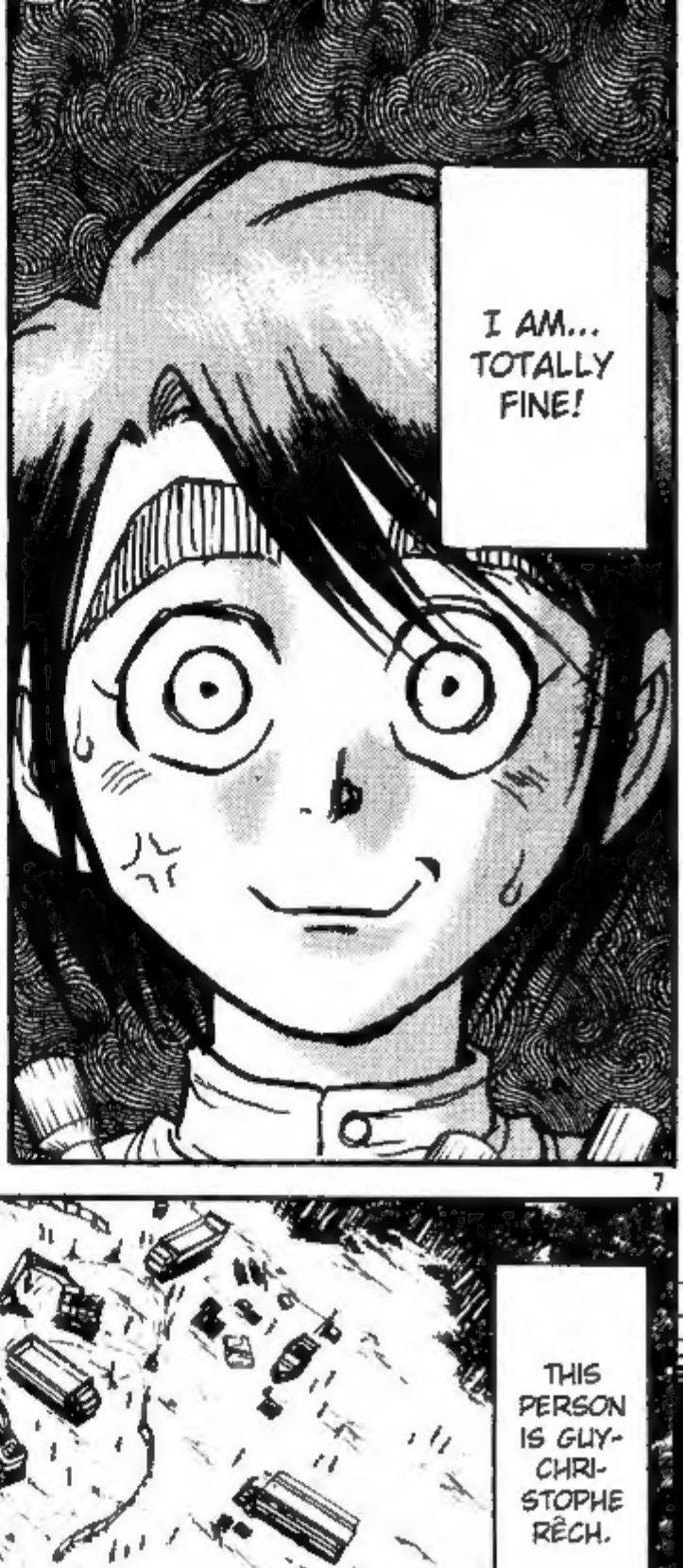
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT BOY...? IS HE UN-WELL?

NOT AT ALL! I'M THE SAME AS ALWAYS!
SHIRO-GANEEE ... NAKA-MACHI-SAN WANTS YOU ...

I'M NOT IN A BAD MOOD AT ALL ...
I SEE. I'LL BE THERE IN A MOMENT ...

I'LL BE OFF NOW, MAITRE.
ALL RIGHT... BUY ME SOME WINE, IF YOU WOULD.

OF COURSE ... MAI-TRE.


I AM... TOTALLY FINE!

HE CAME TO OUR CIRCUS TWO DAYS AGO, AFTER THE PLANE CRASH.
THIS PERSON IS GUY-CHRI-STOPHE RÊCH.

HEY! SOMEONE COME HELP ...!
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED TWO DAYS AGO.

HUH?!
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THERE'S AN INJURED PERSON IN THE OCEAN!
OKAY!
NO, ACTUALLY, GO GET THAT POLICE OFFICER OVER THERE!
HEY, HIRO! NORI! CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!
THIS IS TERRIBLE ... MOST OF HIS FINGERS ARE BROKEN ...

Maman!
OH, DEAR ...
I'LL SAY.
Oh, I'm no good with this stuff!
IS THERE EVEN A POINT? HE LOOKS PRETTY DEAD...
"JUST A MOMENT."
OR, RATHER... THIS IS JAPAN, ISN'T IT.

HE WAS A HANDSOME FOREIGNER WITH THE SAME SILVER HAIR AND EYES AS SHIROGANE.
THIS IS NOTHING IMPOR-TANT.
PLEASE, SIMPLY ALLOW ME TO REST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
KIND PEOPLE OF JAPAN...

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...I AM A DOCTOR ...
I CAN... TREAT... MY OWN WOUNDS, SO...
WE CARRIED HIM TO THE TENT FOR THE TIME BEING.
SINCE HE SAID SO HIMSELF, AND SINCE NAKAMACHI-SAN DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE A BIG FUSS OUT OF IT EITHER...
WHAT'S THIS GUY'S DEAL?
NORI, HIRO, CARRY THIS UP TOO.
HUH...? BUT IT'S SO DIRTY...
HRMM ...
IT'S JUST RUBBISH, ISN'T IT? LEAVE IT ALONE.
PAPA, WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THAT BIG PUPPET-LOOKING THING?
LET'S BRING IT OVER THERE.
HEAVE HO!
OKAY ...
IDIOTS!
THIS IS CLEARLY SOME KIND OF TOOL THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF VERY WELL!

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THIS PUPPET'S ARMS... HAVEN'T I SEEN THEM SOMEWHERE BEFORE...?!
HUH...?

THAT'S IT. WHEN WE GOT BACK TO THE TENT, WE LAID HIM OUT ON THE THREE-WHEELED TRUCK.
IT'S NO-THING.
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MASARU-SAN?

HELLO, I'M BACK.
WEL-COME BACK!
OH, GOOD, SO HE'LL BE ABLE TO LEAVE SOON, TOO!
You're one to talk
Freeloaders are such a bother
HIS COMPLEXION IS GETTING BETTER FAST.
HE LET US DO FIRST AID, BUT HE HAS SOME AMAZING RESILIENCE.
HEY, HOW'S THE FOR-EIGNER DOING?

YOU KNOW, SHIRO-GANE...
NO, SINCE WE WEREN'T REALLY INVOLVED TO BEGIN WITH.
WAS THERE ANY TROUBLE FOR US?
DOZAEMON: DROWNED BODY
YEAH, BUT HE WASN'T DEAD! HE HAS SILVER HAIR AND EYES JUST LIKE YOURS!
THAT'S RIGHT, SHIROGANE! WE FISHED A DOZAEMON OUT OF THE OCEAN!
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THAT'S RIGHT, SHIRO-GANE.
ANYWAY, HE'S ASLEEP RIGHT NOW.
That's a terrible gag, Shiro-gane.
WAIT JUST A MOMENT ...
?
HE MIGHT BE ONE OF YOUR COUNTRYMEN. WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM ABOUT HIS CIRCUM-STANCES ONCE HE'S AWAKE?
RING-MASTER, THE POLICE HAVE COMPLETED THEIR INVESTI-GATION.

HE'S GOTTA BE A PERVERT! THE KIND OF MAN WHO LOVES TO MAKE WOMEN CRY...!
I'LL SAY! WITH THAT PRETTY-BOY FACE...
SOMEHOW THAT DUDE SEEMS LIKE A QUICK WORKER WITH WOMEN...!
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY NEED FOR THAT!
OLD MAN, NOOO!
HUH ...?!
VERY WELL.
ER... SHIROGANE-SAN HAS ALREADY LEFT...
What are you doing?
YEAH!
PROTECT SHIROGANE!
13
RIGHT
AND THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE...
THAT THERE ARE SCARY MOVING DOLLS OUT THERE IN THE WORLD, AND PUPPETEERS WHOSE JOB IT IS TO DESTROY THEM...
YEAH.
AND YOU SAID BEFORE, SHIRO-GANE...
SO THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED.
SHI-RO-GA-NE?
SO... I DIDN'T TELL THE OTHERS, BUT... I THOUGHT THAT MAN MIGHT ALSO BE...

O...
OLYMPIA ?!
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THEN ...
THE MAN WHOM YOU SAVED MUST BE ...
HM... MY FINGERS SHOULD BE BETTER BEFORE VERY LONG...

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M. MAÎTRE …
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ÉLÉO-
NORE.
...TO THINK THAT WE WOULD MEET AGAIN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS. EVEN IN ONE OF SHAKESPEARE'S PLOTS, THIS WOULD BE AN UNLIKELY DEVELOPMENT ...

IT HAS BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME, MAITRE GUY.
SO... THAT MEANS THEY'RE AWFULLY CLOSE...
SHIROGANE ... CALLS GUY-SAN "MAITRE" ...
THAT'S WHY HE KNOWS SHIROGANE'S REAL NAME WHEN I DON'T...
SO ...

MAYBE SO.
MM-HM.
SO, WITHOUT THE BOY NOTICING, SHE'S BECOME LIKE A SISTER OR A MOTHER TO HIM.
REGARD-LESS OF WHETHER HE WANTED HER TO OR NOT.
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SO THAT'S IT, YOU SEE. THAT BOY HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF BY SHIROGANE ALL THIS TIME, SINCE SHE WAS PROTECTING HIM...
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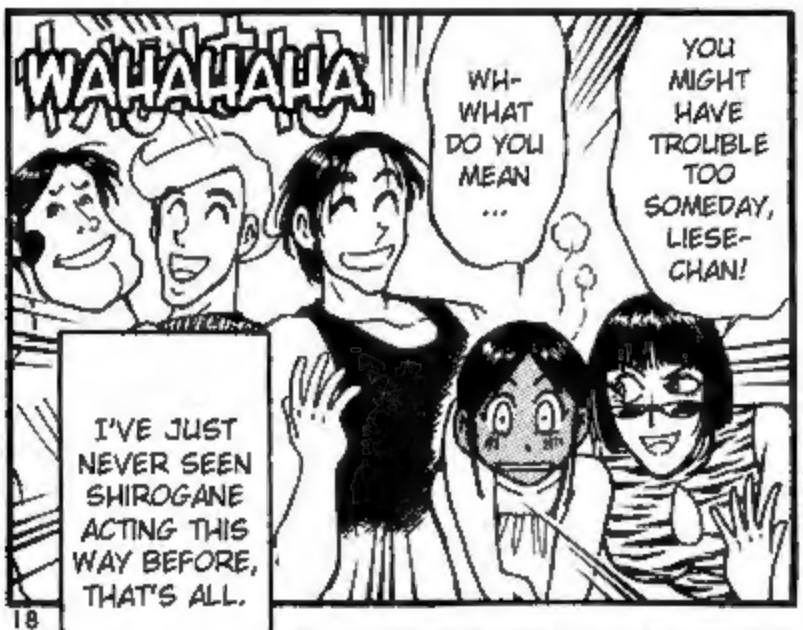
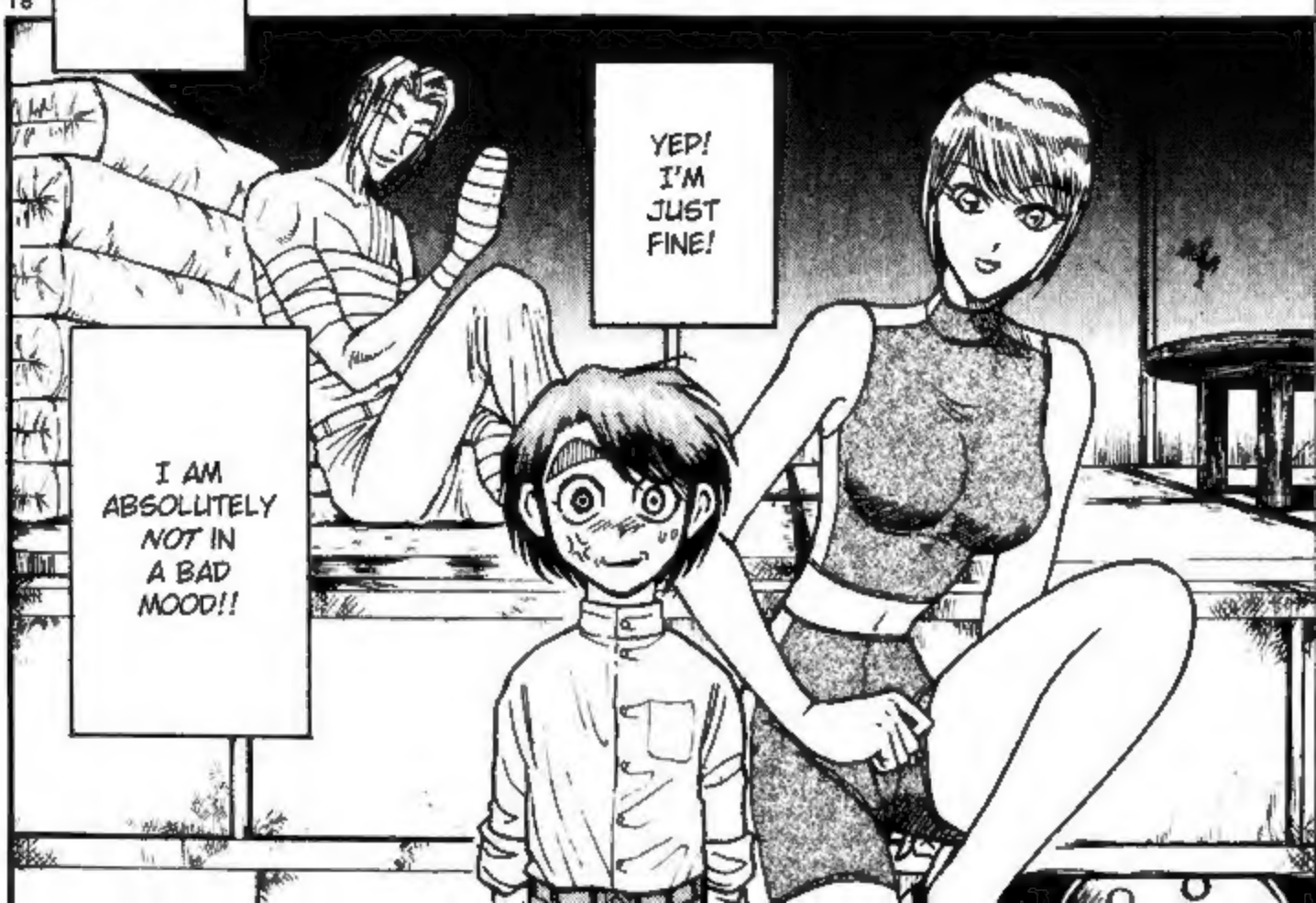
BUT, SHE SAID THAT GUY'S THE ONE WHO TAUGHT HER HOW TO USE PUPPETS. HE WAS LIKE A FATHER TO HER FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS. SO THERE'S NO HELPING IT, RIGHT?
YEAH, I GUESS HE'D BE PRETTY PISSED OFF ...
SO, WHEN A MAN SUDDENLY APPEARS OUT OF NOWHERE, CALLING HER BY NAME SO FAMILIARLY, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO HAPPEN?


WAHAHAHA
I'VE JUST NEVER SEEN SHIROGANE ACTING THIS WAY BEFORE, THAT'S ALL.
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...
YOU MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE TOO SOMEDAY, LIESE-CHAN!

WELL, THE BOY STILL CAN'T ACCEPT IT.


I AM ABSOLUTELY *NOT* IN A BAD MOOD!!
YEP! I'M JUST FINE!

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

I've changed my translation of
Ubukata's nickname (どなりんジジイ)
from "the barking geezer" to "the old yeller";
sorry for any confusion! Also, "Vilma" will
be changed to "Virma" in future chapters,
since her name is shown written out
in romaji later in the manga.

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums
for removing the Japanese text, and to the
anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill
is welcome to take over at any time or
to redo chapters I have already done
if they are below the quality that
this series deserves.